

successful local organization committed to reducing substance abuse among our young people through prevention and education.

John is a graduate of Yale University. He has recently taken on a new challenge as Yale's vice president of finance and administration. His wife, Francie, is also a dedicated and effective community volunteer. They have four children.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate John on this prestigious honor.

REMARKS ON THE DEMOCRATIC REFERENDA IN TAIWAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an important and timely issue: the right of the people of Taiwan to hold a democratic referendum.

Only 20 years ago, Taiwan was ruled by an authoritarian dictatorship under martial law. Today, it is a flourishing, multiparty democracy that holds competitive elections, respects human rights and upholds the rule of law. It is also our close friend and ally.

On March 20, Taiwan will hold its third Presidential election. That same day, the Taiwanese people will vote on two referenda related to Taiwan's self-defense.

Some argue the U.S. should oppose these votes because they will needlessly antagonize China. I disagree.

While it is important for the U.S. to have China's cooperation on a number of issues, our foreign policy should not be based on trying to avoid making China angry—that would be tantamount to giving them veto power over our actions.

Rather, our policy should be guided by U.S. national interests, which undeniably include the promotion and support of democracy in every corner of the globe.

What kind of message would it send to those courageous individuals struggling for democracy in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world if we tell the people of Taiwan that they should refrain from exercising their hard-won right to cast a ballot on key issues of the day?

With all due respect to China, this is not about Taiwanese independence. This is not a "provocation." This is about the peaceful exercise of the purest form of democracy.

I strongly support Taiwan's right to hold these referenda, free from intimidation, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND PANDURANG SHASTRI ATHAVALE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that Mr. HONDA and I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Reverend Pandurang Shastri Athavale and the Devotional Associates of Yogeshwar (DAY) in California. On Saturday, March 13,

2004, the Devotional Associates of Yogeshwar paid homage to a spiritual leader, and friend to all, Reverend Pandurang Shastri Athavale, better known as Dadaji.

Reverend Dadaji passed away on October 25, 2003, leaving behind a message that has changed the lives of millions of people around the globe. Reverend Dadaji spent 50 years giving new meaning to Bhakti, or devotion, by emphasizing the concept of an "Indwelling God." Reverend Dadaji believed that having an awareness of the nearness of God and a reverence for that power, created reverence for self, others, nature, and a reverence for all of creation. He believed that devotion, as an expression of gratitude to God, could become a powerful social force that could transform all aspects of human life at all levels of society and ultimately solve all the problems of mankind.

The Swadhyaya Process, the way of living taught by Reverend Dadaji, is inclusive of all religions, and does not define a Deity, but allows the choice of a Deity to be defined by the worshippers. According to the Swadhyaya Process, this way of living creates a sense of family and belonging within the community, where no one person is more or less important than the other, and all members work in efficiency and coordination.

In 1997, Reverend Dadaji was the recipient of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion for his innovative and influential religious teachings. The Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion is one of the largest financial annual awards in the world, and is awarded only to living individuals who, through outstanding originality, have advanced the world's understanding of God or spirituality.

The work of Reverend Dadaji in rural India exemplifies these qualities. The teachings of Swadhyaya have transformed 100,000 villages of rural India prompting the United Nations to name this movement as one of the most significant developments in the world. Through principles taught by Reverend Dadaji, the villagers dedicate a few days of labor per year as demonstrations of their devotion to God. Through joint efforts by the villagers, people from all religions, castes, and economic strata build temples, community farms, orchards, and centers. The products of their efforts are then given to the needy and to the community as a whole, thereby creating a society where no one is marginalized or forgotten. Worldwide the Swadhyaya Process has millions of followers, including approximately 15,000 in the United States alone.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the Devotional Associates of Yogeshwar's recent gathering to pay tribute to Reverend Pandurang Shastri Athavale and his many accomplishments, it is with great admiration and pride that we ask our colleagues to join us today in saluting this exceptional leader.

A TRIBUTE TO DORIS BLACKSTOCK, 29TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the

month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Doris Blackstock. Mrs. Blackstock's passion for community service, especially her immense contribution to the American Red Cross, has made our community a better place in which to live.

Born and raised in Winfield, Kansas, Doris attended Winfield High School, continuing her journey into higher education at Southwestern College and Methodist College.

During World War II, Mrs. Blackstock moved to Los Angeles, California, where she got a job at Foster Kleiser Outdoor Advertising Company, now Clear Channel. She met her husband, Joseph Blackstock, the company's Director of Research and Public Relations and they married in 1946, enjoying 53 years of marriage until his death in 1989. While staying at home and raising their two sons, Joseph Jr. and Forrest, Doris was an active member of the Parent Teacher Association and is currently a Life Member.

In 1966, she began her extensive volunteer career with the American Red Cross in Alhambra, working an average of 8 hours a day for many years. Her duties included assisting the military families program, presenting programs on Earthquake Preparedness, and responding to local disasters. The National Headquarters of the American Red Cross often sent Mrs. Blackstock to other locations in the United States to assist with major disasters. In addition, she served for 6 years on the Board of Directors of the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

A natural leader and "professional volunteer," Doris currently volunteers at the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, the Wholly Grounds Coffee House at Alhambra's Atherton Baptist Home and the Alhambra American Red Cross. She is a long-time member of many organizations, including the Alhambra Women's Club, and the Order of Eastern Star #193 Alhambra-Granada Chapter. Additionally, Doris is active at her church, First United Methodist Church in Alhambra.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Doris Blackstock. The entire community joins me in thanking Doris Blackstock for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to correct a vote which I cast erroneously last week in support of H.R. 3717. I did not mean to vote for this legislation, and I would like that fact to be noted in the RECORD.

It goes without saying that no one likes to vote against a bill that purportedly is designed to reduce the coarseness and crudity of public discourse. We are all aware that the limits of